



# Southern Nevada Building & Construction Trades Council

*Affiliated with the Building & Construction Trades Department — AFL-CIO*

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September 27, 2011

Penny Woods  
Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

REC'D - BLM - NSO  
SEP 30 2011  
JAL

Dear Ms. Woods,

I write to you today as the Secretary Treasurer of the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council and as a life-long Las Vegas resident in support of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed action as the preferred alternative for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Groundwater Development Project.

The recession has been devastating to Nevada, and nowhere is this more apparent than within the state's most hard-hit industry—building and construction. Despite forecasts that Nevada's economy will experience slow growth through 2012, the construction industry remains lifeless. Over the last three years, construction employment is down nearly 67,000 jobs. It is estimated that construction, design and development workers account for roughly one in three unemployed Nevada jobseekers.

Allowing Southern Nevada to diversify its water resources with the Groundwater Development Project will position the state for economic recovery by re-establishing Las Vegas as a viable place to live, work and play. Southern Nevada generates the largest portion of this state's tax revenue, but it will only be able to provide this revenue in the future if it is able to attract and retain businesses, revive the construction industry and promise a stable and sustainable future for its residents.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not address the economic implications to Clark County should the SNWA's Groundwater Development Project be constructed. However, without this project, there will be not only be no growth and development in Southern Nevada, the sustainability of the existing community will be in jeopardy.

The Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council encourages the BLM to grant rights-of-way to the SNWA to utilize water resources from all six basins in its proposed plan of development.

Sincerely,

Darren Enns  
Secretary Treasurer